

**Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by
President Stjepan Mesic of Croatia in
Zagreb, Croatia**

April 4, 2008

Mr. President and Madam, thank you very much. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much. Also good to meet your wife.

Laura and I are thrilled to be in your beautiful country, Mr. President. We appreciate your gracious hospitality, and we celebrate your invitation to become one of America's closest allies. I—you said you're from a small country. I'm impressed by the big hearts and the big basketball team. *[Laughter]*

We are so proud of our relationship, Mr. President. We share common values. We believe in human rights and human dignity. We believe there's a Creator that has given every man, woman, and child on the face of the Earth the great gift of freedom. We believe markets are capable of unleashing the entrepreneurial spirit of our peoples. We understand that freedom requires sacrifice.

I salute the people of your country for your courage and willingness to help a young democracy in Afghanistan not only thrive but succeed. I appreciate the friends who have stared evil in the face and understand there's a better tomorrow.

And so, Mr. President, I bring the greetings of my country to your beautiful land. With the honor due to a trusted ally, I offer a toast to you and to the valiant people of Croatia.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:04 p.m. at the Pucka Dvorana. In his remarks, he referred to Milka Mesic, wife of President Mesic; and Prime Minister Ivo Sanader of Croatia and his wife, Mirjana Sanader. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Mesic.

**Proclamation 8233—National Tartan
Day, 2008**

April 4, 2008

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Americans of Scottish descent have made enduring contributions to our Nation with their hard work, faith, and values. On National Tartan Day, we celebrate the spirit and character of Scottish Americans and recognize their many contributions to our culture and our way of life.

Scotland and the United States have long shared ties of family and friendship, and many of our country's most cherished customs and ideals first grew to maturity on Scotland's soil. The Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence signed in 1320, embodied the Scots' strong dedication to liberty, and the Scots brought that tradition of freedom with them to the New World. Sons and daughters of many Scottish clans were among the first immigrants to settle in America, and their determination and optimism helped build our Nation's character. Several of our Founding Fathers were of Scottish descent, as have been many Presidents and Justices of the United States Supreme Court. Many Scottish Americans, such as Andrew Carnegie, were great philanthropists, founding and supporting numerous scientific, educational, and civic institutions. From the evocative sounds of the bagpipes to the great sport of golf, the Scots have also left an indelible mark on American culture.

National Tartan Day is an opportunity to celebrate all Americans who claim Scottish ancestry, and we are especially grateful for the service in our Armed Forces of Scottish Americans who have answered the call to protect our Nation.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 6, 2008, as National Tartan Day. I call upon all Americans to observe this day by celebrating the continued friendship between the people of

Scotland and the United States and by recognizing the contributions of Scottish Americans to our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:34 a.m., April 8, 2008]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on April 9.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 29

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

March 30

In the evening, at Nationals Park, the President and Mrs. Bush visited the Major League Baseball clubhouses of the Washington Nationals and the Atlanta Braves. Later, he threw out the ceremonial first pitch to open the game between the Nationals and the Braves. He and Mrs. Bush then watched the game.

March 31

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Kiev, Ukraine, arriving in the evening. While en route aboard Air Force One, he had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the Hyatt Regency Kiev.

April 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush

met with U.S. Embassy staff and their families. They then traveled to the Presidential Secretariat, where they participated in an arrival ceremony with President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine and his wife, Kateryna Mykhailivna Yushchenko.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a reception with President Yushchenko and Mrs. Yushchenko. During the reception, he met with Yatseniuk Arseniy Petrovych, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada, and Viktor Yanukovych, Leader of the Party of Regions of Ukraine.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Club of Cabinet Ministers, where he met with Prime Minister Yuliya Tymoshenko of Ukraine. Later, he traveled to the Holodomor Memorial, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush, President Yushchenko, and Mrs. Yushchenko. They all then traveled to St. Sophia's Cathedral, where they toured the cathedral and attended a musical performance.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Bucharest, Romania, arriving in the evening.

Later in the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to the JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel.

The President announced the designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the ceremony commemorating the 65th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising in Warsaw, Poland, on April 15: Michael Chertoff (head of delegation); Victor Ashe; Phyllis Heideman; David Mitzner; and Bill Lowenberg.

April 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Mihail Kogalniceanu, Romania, where, upon arrival at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airport, they participated in an arrival ceremony with President Traian Basescu of Romania and his wife, Maria. They then traveled to the Protocol Villas Neptun-Olimp in Neptun, Romania, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, in the Protocol Villas Neptun-Olimp dining room, the President had a working lunch with President Basescu. Later, he and Mrs. Bush returned